hour warning and emergency levels are set at increments between the proposed alert level and the proposed significant harm level. This approach would provide opportunity for the control actions associated with each episode level to take effect before the next stage is triggered and additional control actions become necessary. This proposal, if adopted, would change the 24-hour significant harm level. Therefore, States would be required to adopt the new numerical level, to evaluate the emergency episode provisions, in their current SIP's and any permits containing such provisions and to make any revisions necessary to assure their adequacy.

All public comments on the proposed significant harm level and episode criteria will be considered by the Agency as it makes a decision on the final significant harm level.

## VII. Proposed Revisions to Part 58 Monitoring Regulations

The proposed revisions to 40 CFR part 58 are needed to allow States to reduce in most cases the number of NAMS SO<sub>2</sub> monitors in the metropolitan areas. This, in turn, will free up monitors and resources that can be used toward the SO<sub>2</sub> targeted implementation strategy. The following preamble details requirements which will be implemented regardless of the regulatory alternative that is ultimately selected for part 50.

## A. Section 58.1 Definitions

The number of SO<sub>2</sub> monitors in the revised NAMS network for major metropolitan areas will be based on factors including population, historical ambient concentration measurements, and total SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The SO<sub>2</sub> emissions data are available from the AIRS for each county and for each consolidated metropolitan statistical area/metropolitan statistical area (CMSA/MSA). Therefore, the requirements for NAMS SO<sub>2</sub> stations have been determined on a CMSA/MSA basis, and the requirements for SLAMS SO<sub>2</sub> stations have been determined on a county basis. Definitions are added for CMSA and MSA as provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

## *B.* Appendix C—Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Methodology

As explained in a related notice in this issue of the Federal Register that proposes amendments to part 53, continuous ambient air monitoring analyzers designed to obtain 1-hour average SO<sub>2</sub> concentration measurements may not provide accurate 5-minute average concentration

measurements. That notice proposes special supplemental performance specifications applicable to continuous SO<sub>2</sub> analyzers that would be used for 5minute monitoring so that the average SO<sub>2</sub> concentration measurements would be accurate. A companion amendment to appendix C of part 58 is needed to specifically require the use of these specially approved analyzers for 5minute monitoring in SLAMS monitoring networks. Accordingly, a new section 2.4 is proposed to require that monitoring methods used for 5minute average SO<sub>2</sub> measurements meet the special supplemental specifications proposed to be added to part 53.

## C. Appendix D—Network Design for State and Local Air Monitoring Stations (SLAMS) and National Air Monitoring Stations (NAMS)

Appendix D is being revised to change the NAMS requirements for SO<sub>2</sub> monitors. The present requirements are based on measuring population exposure over a large area without being unduly influenced by point sources. Because concentrations at a significant number of these sites have decreased over time and many are measuring concentrations well below the current SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, EPA believes that they may be put to better use if relocated. The monitors which may be moved could be used to complete the minimum NAMS and SLAMS requirements or to implement the targeted monitoring strategy for point sources of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions described earlier in this notice (section II: Targeted Implementation Strategy). Up to three SO<sub>2</sub> monitors would be required for each metropolitan area for trends purposes and general urban air quality analyses. The new number of NAMS monitors required for each metropolitan area would be based on the combination of population and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, as defined in the Air Facility Subsystem of AIRS and other information. The EPA solicits comments on reducing the requirements for the number of population-oriented NAMS SO<sub>2</sub> monitors in the metropolitan areas.

In addition to changing the criteria for the required number of NAMS monitors as noted above, new criteria are being included for a minimum number of SLAMS SO<sub>2</sub> monitors for those counties (or parts of counties) not a part of any CMSA/MSA but with significant SO<sub>2</sub> emissions. These counties with SO<sub>2</sub> emissions greater than 20,000 tons/year, as defined in the Air Facility Subsystem of AIRS, would be required to have one to two monitors. However, EPA is proposing a provision which would allow for a waiver of all (or part of) these monitoring requirements after a 2year monitoring period in accordance with EPA guidelines for network review for source-oriented  $SO_2$  monitoring in nonurban areas. Although these guidelines have not been developed at this time, EPA solicits comments on the waiver provision criteria to be established and included in the guideline as well as the minimum number of years for data collection. The EPA also solicits comments on the requirement for  $SO_2$  SLAMS monitors in these areas.

As discussed earlier in this notice, EPA believes there are a significant number of sources of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions which can produce high 5-minute ambient concentrations of SO<sub>2</sub>. These 5minute concentrations have the potential to exceed the level for a proposed 5-minute SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS or the trigger level which may be established under the authority of section 303 of the Act. The sources which are believed to provide these high concentrations would be targeted for monitoring as discussed earlier in this notice. States will be required to prepare a targeted SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring plan containing a listing of sources to be monitored, the schedule for monitoring, and the rationale for selecting the sources. The schedule for monitoring should be as expeditious as practicable. It is expected that the resources which are made available by the reconfiguration of the NAMS and SLAMS networks will be used to implement the targeting strategy around selected SO<sub>2</sub> sources. The targeted SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring plan will be reviewed as part of the annual network review.

The number of SO<sub>2</sub> monitors to be used around the targeted sources depends on several diverse factors, i.e. quantity of SO<sub>2</sub> emissions, meteorology, terrain, stack height and diameter of stack, temperature and velocity of stack emissions, distance from point of emissions to fence line and populated areas, batch operations, etc. To capture high peak 5-minute concentrations may require many monitors around the sources (Sonoma Technology Inc., 1994). However, it is not economically feasible to place enough monitors around the source to capture all potential exceedances of the NAAQS or trigger level. Therefore, EPA is using a more moderate approach on the number of monitors required.

The EPA is proposing a minimum requirement of four  $SO_2$  monitors to measure 5-minute, 3-hour, 24-hour, and annual average  $SO_2$  concentrations around the targeted sources. These monitors could be point  $SO_2$  monitors, open path  $SO_2$  analyzers, or a combination of both. If open path